

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

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IO-14 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00

USIA-15 NSC-07 SCI-06 OMB-01 DRC-01 /143 W

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1887

DEA HQ WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 4027

ANKARA FOR DEA ARNOLD BRIGGS

BEIRUT FOR DEA SAIC MILLER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, JO

SUBJ: CURRENT DRUG SITUATION IN JORDAN

REF: STATE A-5053

1. THERE WERE NO LARGE OR SIGNIFICANT DRUG SEIZURES BY THE JORDANIAN NARCOTICS BUREAU IN JORDAN DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1974. THIS IS DUE PRIMARILY TO THE EXTREMELY EFFECTIVE WORK OF THE JORDANIAN NARCOTICS BUREAU IN CLAMPING DOWN ON KNOWN TRAFFICKERS. PRICE OF HASHISH IN JORDAN TRIPLED DURING FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1974, WHICH IS INDICATIVE OF THE STREET PRICE OF THE DRUG ON THE LOCAL MARKET.

2. ANOTHER DETERRENT TO TRAFFICKING IN JORDAN IS THE EXTREMELY HARSH PENALTIES METED OUT BY THE MILITARY COURTS FOR POSSESSION AND/OR TRAFFICKING. FOR EXAMPLE, ONE INDIVIDUAL FOUND WITH 62 MORPHINE ANPULS AND 29 PETHIDINE AMPULS WAS SENTENCED TO ONE YEAR  
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IMPRISONMENT AND 100 JORDANIAN DINARS (APPROX \$300)

FINE. ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL FOUND WITH 282.5 GRAMS OF HASHASH WAS SENTENCED TO THREE AND ONE-HALF YEARS IN PRISON AND A 250 JORDANIAN DINAR (APPROX \$750) FINE. SIMILAR SENTENCES WERE HANDED DOWN FOR LESSER AMOUNTS OF HASHISH. ONE INDIVIDUAL, A SAUDI WHO IS A FUGITIVE FROM JUSTICE IN SAUDI ARABIA, WAS FOUND WITH 23.4 KILOS OF HASHISH HIDDEN IN HIS CAR AND WAS SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT AND 5,000 JORDANIAN DINARS (APPROX \$15,000) FINE.

3. ALTHOUGH THE JORDANIAN NARCOTICS BUREAU HAS NOT MADE MANY SEIZURES IN JORDAN DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1974, ITS AGENTS HAVE BEEN ACTIVE IN SYRIA AND LEBANON. AT THE MOMENT THERE ARE SEVERAL OPERATIONS INVOLVING THE MOVEMENT OF HEROINE FROM BEIRUT TO JORDAN TO GERMANY. THESE OPERATIONS ARE TIGHTLY CONTROLLED AND CHIEF OF NARCOTICS BUREAU HOPES TO COME UP WITH LEADS AS TO THE IDENTITY OF THE TRAFFICKERS IN GERMANY FOR WHOM THE SHIPMENT IS INTENDED.

4. AT THE MOMENT THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 100 DRUG TRAFFICKERS IN JORDANIAN PRISONS. ALL OF THESE INDIVIDUALS ARE EAST JORDANIAN, AND AS A RESULT THEIR CONTINUED IMPRISONMENT IS CAUSING SOME POLITICAL PROBLEMS TO THE GOVERNMENT. THIS IS DUE TO THE FACT THAT KING HUSSEIN HAS, FROM TIME TO TIME, DECLARED AMNESTIES FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS, MAINLY PALESTINIAN, SO NATURALLY THERE IS RESENTMENT THAT EAST JORDANIANS OR BEDOUINS REMAIN IN JAIL. SO FAR KING HUSSEIN HAS NOT SHOWN ANY INCLINATION TO RELEASE DRUG TRAFFICKERS, ALTHOUGH PRIME MINISTER MAKES IT A PRACTICE TO CUT DRUG SENTENCES IN HALF WHEN HE APPROVES THEM.

5. ADDICTION IN JORDAN IS NOT A PROBLEM. THE CHIEF OF THE NARCOTICS BUREAU RECENTLY EXPRESSED CONCERN, HOWEVER, OVER THE GROWING USE OF HASHISH AND BARBITUATES BY MIDDLE AND UPPER CLASS SOCIETY IN AMMAN. CHIEF OF NARCOTICS SAID THAT IT HAS NOT REACHED ALARMING PROPORTIONS AS YET, BUT FEELS IT IS A SIGN OF THINGS TO COME AND THAT IT IS CAUSED PRIMARILY BY THE CONFIDENTIAL

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EXPOSURE OF JORDANIAN STUDENTS ABROAD TO THE DRUG CULTURE IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES. CROWN PRINCE HASSAN HAS HEARD SIMILAR REPORTS AND IS CONVINCED THAT EDUCATIONAL STEPS MUST BE TAKEN TO IMPRESS UPON JORDANIANS THE DANGER OF DRUG USE. HE IS CURRENTLY CONSIDERING SEVERAL AVENUES OF APPROACH, MAINLY IN THE SCHOOLS. PICKERING

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## Message Attributes

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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 JUL 1974  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CURRENT DRUG SITUATION IN JORDAN  
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